



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Retrospective Rating Program • PO Box 44180 • Olympia, Washington • 98504-4180

**DATE:** August 4, 2001  
**TO:** Retro Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Frank Romero (Chair), Retro Program Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes of April 10, 2001 retro advisory committee meeting

Meeting was called to order by chairperson **Frank Romero** at 1:00 PM; it was moved, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as distributed. Frank reviewed the proposed agenda, and introductions of the committee and audience members were made.

**Juanita Perry** (Claims Ops Manager) discussed the Cockle Decision and its effect on claims administration. The lower court has said benefits could be calculated at 'fair market value' but the subsequent decision of the state supreme court ruled the actual cost must be used when calculating benefits. The department has revised the employer portion of the workers' compensation report of accident (ROA) form, and it now includes three questions related to Cockle. An informational insert was included in the recent mailing of quarterly reports to employers, and the agency website also has information on Cockle.

Committee member **Steve George** asked why the medical release wording on the ROA does not include the employer along with L&I. (*See handout*)

Committee member **Larry Hoehne** requested clarification on some claims practices, and a question was raised by guest(s) in attendance regarding claim policy related to vocational services. After some discussion with Jody Moran (claims admin program manager) it was agreed to have claims staff attend the next committee meeting to address these issues.

**Mark Mercier** (associate actuary) gave a presentation on the effects of the time loss duration (TLD) project on state fund reserves. **Nichole Runnels** (actuarial analyst) discussed slips and falls in the restaurant industry and effects on time loss duration, benefits and claim severity. (*See handout*)

Meeting was adjourned at 3:27 PM.

The next retro advisory committee meeting will begin at 1:00 PM, on Tuesday, August 14, 2001.